

Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, Ohio

WING WATCH

Volume 21, Issue 03

121st Air Refueling Wing

September 2013

RICKENBACKER HELPS TO KEEP THE FAITH



Tech. Sgt. Mark Groves, Aircrew Flight Equipment technician at the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, Ohio, answers questions about AFE from Dr. James Futrell, pastor of pastoral care, Freehaven Church, Centerville, Ohio, during the Clergy Familiarization Tour, Sept. 12, at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. Clergy throughout the state were invited by service members of their church to spend the day at Rickenbacker to learn about the minister's role in the military. They learned about ministry in combat, participated in a virtual convoy, sat in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, an M-RAP, and toured a KC-135 Stratotanker. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Bill Pierce/Released)



Congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel Lance Kollstedt, who was selected as the next assistant director of operations in the 166th Air Refueling Squadron.

New AAFES hours

The Rickenbacker AAFES has new hours of operation. Please plan accordingly.

Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sun. U.T.A. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



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Wing Watch submissions

Articles, photos, announcements and other useful information should be submitted to the PA office by 12 p.m. Friday of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. UTAs for print in the next issue. Material can be e-mailed to: 121ARW.WingWatch@ang.af.mil

3rd quarter Wing award winners

It is with great pleasure that the 121st Chief's Council would like to announce the 3rd quarter Wing award winners.

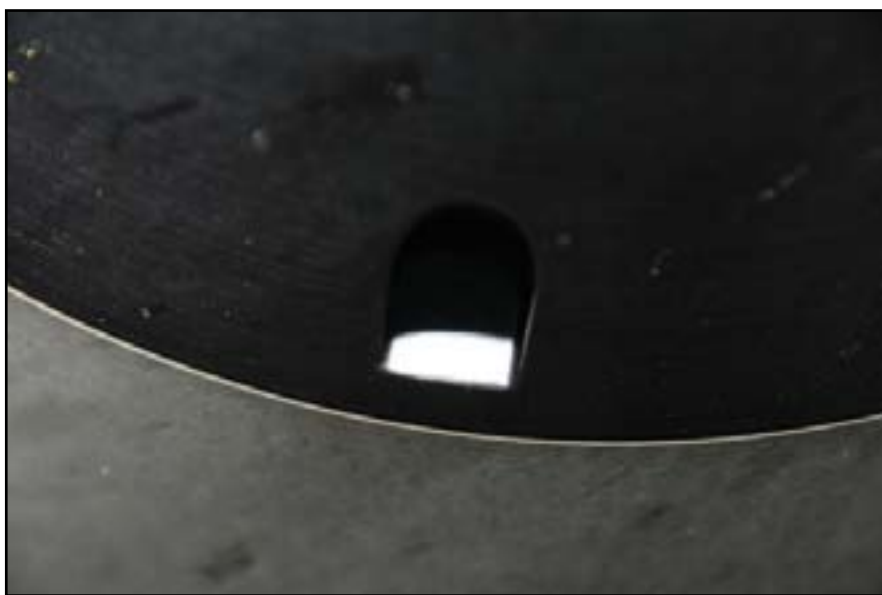
SNCO of the Quarter – Master Sgt. Barry Anderson, 166th Air Refueling Squadron

NCO of the Quarter - Staff Sgt. Vanlath Daranikone, 145th Air Refueling Squadron

Airman of the Quarter - Senior Airman Daniel Lehman, Communications Squadron

Can you guess what this is?

(Answer on Back)



A note from the commander: Unit climate survey results are available

Results of the unit climate survey are now available. It was clear to see what we are doing right and where we need improvement. The results will be used as the cornerstone for our strategic planning in the coming weeks. Our focus will be primarily internal as we move forward.

Results can be viewed on the 121st website via Sharepoint.

Thank you for your participation as we focus to the future.

JAMES V. JONES, Col, OHANG
Commander, 121st Air Refueling Wing



Medical squadron responds with ready units

Colonel Michele Gavin

121st Medical Squadron Commander

Following the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, 10 Homeland Response Forces (HRF) were directed for creation within the National Guard Bureau for a Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) response. Ohio and Washington were the first two states to stand up a HRF.

HRFs are made up of guard Soldiers and Airmen with specific skills sets in responding to domestic attacks and disasters and are designed for rapid response to catastrophic events. They are regionally dispersed and highly mobile for faster deployment. One HRF unit is based in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions.

The Ohio National Guard selected the 73rd Troop Command at Rickenbacker ANGB as the HRF headquarters, attaching chemical decontamination, medical, military police, sustainment, transportation, and command units. This unit is responsible for responding to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, or Nuclear (CBRN) incident anywhere within FEMA Region V, which includes not only Ohio, but also Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.

The HRF consists of ~ 570 personnel assigned to the following organic capabilities: Command and Control (C2), CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), and CBRN Assistance Support Element (CASE). Non-organic units that may attach to the HRF include: additional CERFPs and Civil Support Teams.

The CERFP mission is to provide immediate response capability to the governor including: incident site search capability of damaged buildings, rescuing trapped casualties, providing decontamination, and performing medical triage and initial treatment to stabilize patients for transport to medical facilities.

The CERFP is comprised of four elements staffed by personnel from established National Guard units. Elements include: search and extraction, decontamination, medical, and command and control. During execution, the command and control team directs the overall activities of the CERFP, and coordinates with Joint Task Force-State, HRF C2, and the incident commander. The search and extraction element is assigned to an Army National Guard Engineering Company and the decontamination element is assigned to an Army National Guard Chemical Company. In Ohio, the medical element is assigned to the Ohio Air National Guard's 121st Medical Group.

The CERFP Medical Element's mission is to provide sophisticated and short duration, pre-hospital emergency medical treatment during a CBRN response mission at rescue sites. Specifically, the team works with decontamination and/or casualty extraction teams to provide emergency medical triage, treatment, and stabilization prior to evacuation.

Victims with serious injuries and illnesses may be encountered and will require treatment. Medical personnel are also responsible for minimizing health risks, assisting in the identification of military personnel displaying symptoms of critical incident stress syndrome or other negative health effects, and emergency treatment of hazardous materials exposure for National Guard response personnel.

In a real world event, the medical element must be prepared to respond to a wide range of issues including physical injury caused by blast effect and collapsing structures, stress related issues, radiation exposure and radiological, chemical, or biological contamination. The victims must be thoroughly decontaminated, examined and treated as effectively as possible before moving them on to permanent medical facilities.

Commander's Column



Coping with Loss

Lieutenant Colonel Curt Wagner
121st Chaplain

Over the past few months, a large majority of those in the Wing have dealt with death in some form or another. We have had a couple of significant deaths in our Wing of members who were well known to many. We have also experienced family members of those we have known who have unexpectedly died or were killed in tragic ways. Some have had their own family members pass away during this time. Whether or not we knew someone who died or was killed, we know people who have been affected and are grieving that loss.

People can also grieve over other losses. There can be a loss of a dream, a loss that comes with health issues, and loss in divorce, even though no one actually dies.

Often when it comes to helping people that are grieving, we are at a loss to know what to do to help them. We feel awkward around them and don't know what to say. To avoid saying the wrong thing, we often don't say anything at all.

Grieving over the loss of someone is a difficult, but normal process that involves slowly adjusting to the loss of someone in our life. It is not forgetting that person or putting them in the past, but it is learning to go on with life while adjusting to their absence. That doesn't mean that we try to forget about them, but instead concentrating on the memories of that person can be very healthy for us. In fact, if you know someone who is grieving a loss, getting them to talk

about the memories of that person can be very helpful and healthy for them.

While deployed to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center at Dover Air Force Base several years ago, I worked with the families who came to watch the Dignified Transfer of their loved ones. Day after day, I encountered people who had just found out that their son, daughter, mother, father, husband or wife had just been killed. One of the greatest lessons I learned is that every person handles grief differently. There is no one "right" way to handle grief, even though people do sometimes go through certain stages of grief like denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Because everyone deals with grief in a different way, we need to be careful of putting expectations on people who are dealing with a loss. For example, if someone doesn't cry, that doesn't mean that they aren't sorry about the loss. They may feel pain just as deeply as others but they are not as emotional, or maybe at least not around other people. There is also an expectation about how long a person should grieve over a loss. There is often a pressure for people to get on with life, but the adjustment to a loss can take a long time, even much longer than a year. The time frame is different for every person.

We can help those who are grieving by just being there for them. There is nothing wrong with asking them how they are doing and asking about some of their memories. Use the name of the person who died to acknowledge

Chaplain's Corner



their importance. Include those who are grieving in some of your activities to give them a change of perspective. You can't take the pain away and you can't shorten the time of grieving, but you can be a support and encouragement as they go through the process (and it is a process!).

If you are the one grieving, don't worry about other's expectations. Don't ignore the pain, but be willing to experience it and talk about it. Don't try to be strong because feeling sad and expressing emotions is normal and necessary. Give yourself time and look for ways of remembering that person who died while finding new traditions and new experiences in life. That is all part of adjusting to the loss. Remember that your chaplains and chaplain assistants are always available to help whenever the need arises.

If you would like to speak with a chaplain, please contact Chaplain Wagner at 614-492-4310

Colin Powell: Kindness Works

Adapted from Colin Powell's new book, *It Worked for Me* (HarperCollins)

Many years ago I was the warden—the senior lay-person of a small suburban Episcopal church in northern Virginia. During that time, the bishop assigned to our parish an elderly priest, in some kind of distress and in need of a parish, to serve as an assistant pastor. I never knew the nature of his problem. We just welcomed him into the church, treated him as one of us, and ministered to him, just as we ministered to one another. He was with us for a year. On his last Sunday, he was assigned the sermon. As he finished, he looked out over the congregation and with a smile on his face quietly concluded, “Always show more kindness than seems necessary, because the person receiving it needs it more than you will ever know.” That sentence hit me with a special force that has remained with me for four decades. His lesson was clear: Kindness is not just about being nice; it’s about recognizing another human being who deserves care and respect.



Much later, when I was secretary of state, I slipped away one day from my beautiful office and vigilant security agents and snuck down to the garage, where the employees were immigrants and minorities making minimum wage.

The attendants had never seen a secretary wandering around the garage before; they thought I was lost. They asked if I needed help getting back “home.” I told them no. I just wanted to chat. After a while, I asked them a question about their jobs that had puzzled me. Because the garage was too small for all the employees’ cars, the attendants had to stack cars one behind the other. “When the cars come in every morning how do you decide whose car is the first to get out, and whose ends up second or third?”

Colin Powell: Why We Serve

They gave each other knowing looks and little smiles. “Mr. Secretary,” one of them said, “it goes like this: When you drive in, if you lower the window, look out, smile, or know our name, you’re number one to get out. But if you look straight ahead, don’t show you see us or that we are doing something for you, well, you are likely to be one of the last to get out.” At my next staff meeting, I shared this story with my senior leaders. “You can never err by treating everyone in the building with respect, thoughtfulness, and a kind word,” I told them. It ain’t brain surgery. Every person in an organization has value and wants that value to be recognized. Everyone needs appreciation and reinforcement. Taking care of employees is perhaps the best form of kindness.

Being kind doesn’t mean being soft. When young soldiers go to basic training, they meet a drill sergeant who seems to be their worst nightmare. They are terrified. But all that changes. The sergeant is with them every step of the way, teaching, cajoling, enforcing and bringing out the strength and confidence they didn’t know they had. When they graduate, they leave with an emotional bond they will never forget. Ask any veteran the name of his drill sergeant and he will know it. (My ROTC camp drill sergeant almost 55 years ago was Staff Sgt. Artis Westberry.)

I believe that if you develop a reputation for kindness, even the most unpleasant decisions will go down easier. People will realize that your decision must be necessary and is not arbitrary or made without empathy. As the old saying goes, “To the world, you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world.”

Good leaders must first be good followers

Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Combs
121st Human Resource Advisor

Starting in the earliest days of our career as Airmen, we begin being taught leadership skills and are given opportunities to lead. My first foray into leadership occurred a couple days in to basic training when I was selected as an Element Leader for my flight. Truth be told, this particular “promotion” was really much more of a disciplinary action resulting from a snicker that caught the ear of my MTI, if I recall, but it was a leadership opportunity nonetheless. Throughout our careers, as we progress through the ranks and the various levels of Professional Military Education (PME), we are taught leadership skills and given increasing leadership responsibilities every step of the way.

As important as effective leadership is, however, I think a subject that is equally as important to men and women of all ranks is effective followership. It may seem like a paradox but it is widely agreed that **in order to be a good leader you must be a good follower**. In “Reinventing Leadership”, leadership guru Warren Bennis wrote: “Good leaders should also be good followers. If you’re coming up within an organization, you must be a good follower or you’re not going to get very far.” Interestingly, you can walk through any bookstore and find thousands of books on the topic of leadership and management but you will find very few on the subject of followership. I recently tested this theory by doing a search on Amazon for books about leadership. I found over 100,000 titles available on leadership. There were just 250 on followership. The fact of the matter is that for most of us, we’ll only lead 10 to 20 percent of our military life. The rest of the time we will be followers. So what makes a good follower?

Followership can be defined as the willingness to cooperate in working towards the accomplishment of the mission, to demonstrate a high degree of teamwork and to build cohesion among the group. It is also the ability to identify and follow patterns of success within your organization which is how you become a leader. Scholar Robert E. Kelley, widely considered to be a pioneer in the concept of followership, describes four main qualities of effective followers:

1. **Self-Management:** Working well without supervision. Thinking independently.
2. **Commitment:** Commitment to the mission. Commitment to the team. Commitment to excellence.
3. **Competence:** Building knowledge for maximum impact. Using lifelong learning to consistently improve performance.
4. **Courage:** Not acting as a “yes man”. Having integrity, honesty – moral courage.

In closing, there are times when you should lead and there are times when you should follow. When you’re following, do it to the best of your ability and be proud of your place and the impact you have in that place. Being a good follower is as admirable as being a good leader, so do it with pride. People will respect you for being a good follower and, because of that, will select you for leadership roles. Understand that the qualities that will make you a star follower will also prepare you to be a good leader.



Times of chaos reveals the leader in Airmen

Senior Master Sgt. Edward Taylor, III
121st Wing First Sergeant

In the coming days/months and possibly years we will face a significant battle, which unfortunately, we have zero control over. Sequestration, budget cuts, downsizing... whatever you want to call it, will require all of us to become leaders in our organizations.

Our marching orders are simple. "When called, we respond with ready units to execute federal, state and community missions." But this demands a leap of faith. As an alternative to worrying about or denying our circumstances, great leaders embrace times like these and view them as an opportunity for growth and learning to strengthen themselves and their organizations. They come to see adversity and struggle as a rite of passage that universally all leaders must traverse. The key is to not allow yourself to get stuck and become miserable.



Leadership is a way of life. A leader moves through life naturally even when there is no one to follow him or her. What makes a leader isn't toughness as much as it is helping others find support during the struggle. Leaders trust that engaging earnestly with struggle will ultimately take them to a better place, heighten their awareness; opening their minds to the possibilities they may not have otherwise imagined.

Everyone who has a soul, which by my definition includes us all, has the potential to become an inspired leader. When you draw on the wisdom and strength that comes from within, you become a leader without needing to seek followers. As the saying goes, "if you build it they will come".... As you put your vision into a tangible form, they will follow.

Clearly, leaders need struggle to grow. The 121st needs leaders at every level to step up and have the courage to confront conflict with openness and positivity. Applying the appropriate levels of discernment and holding people accountable to our basic core values. We need every set of eyes looking for ways that can turn this perceived tragedy into transformation, and pave the way for growth.

Airmen, we can't just manage our way through this; it's going to take leadership, guidance, and strength. Encouraging each member to think through what is important....work together and stick together.

"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."

Gen. (Ret) Colin Powell

The 11 elements of the Air Force suicide prevention program

The Air Force Suicide Prevention Program is built on 11 overlapping core elements stressing leadership and community involvement in the prevention of suicides. It is one of 20 evidence based programs listed in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence- Based Programs and Practices.

1. *Leadership Involvement*: Air Force leaders actively support the entire spectrum of suicide prevention initiatives in the community.
2. *Addressing Suicide Prevention through Professional Military Education*: PME provides periodic and targeted Suicide Prevention training for Airmen, specifically oriented to the individual's rank and level of responsibility.
3. *Guidelines for Commanders*: Use of Mental Health Services: Commanders receive training on how and when to use mental health services and guidance on their role in encouraging early help seeking behavior.
4. *Unit-based Preventive Services*: Helping-agency professionals partner with unit leaders to provide services at the work site to increase access, encourage help-seeking, and promote familiarity and trust with Airmen and families.
5. *Wingman Culture*: Wingmen practice healthy behaviors and make responsible choices and encourage others to do the same. Wingmen foster a culture of early help-seeking. Wingmen recognize the signs and symptoms of distress in themselves and others and take protective action.
6. *Investigative Interview Policy*: Following any investigative interview, the investigator is required to 'hand-off' the individual directly to the commander, first sergeant, or supervisor. The unit representative is then responsible for assessing the individual's emotional state and contacting a mental health provider if any question about the possibility of suicide exists.
7. *Post Suicide Response (Postvention)*: Suicide impacts coworkers, families, and friends. Offering support early is associated with increased help-seeking behavior.
8. *Integrated Delivery System (IDS) and Community Action Information Board (CAIB)*: At the Air Force, MAJCOM, and base levels, the CAIB and IDS provide a forum for the cross-organizational review and resolution of individual, family, installation, and community issues that impact the force readiness and the quality of life.
9. *Limited Privilege Suicide Prevention Program*: Patients undergoing legal action who are at risk for suicide are afforded increased confidentiality when seen by mental health providers.
10. *Commanders Consultation Assessment Tool*: Commanders use a variety of assessments (e.g., Support and Resilience Inventory, Unit Climate Assessment) recommended by appropriate agencies, to gain insight into unit strengths and areas of vulnerability.
11. *Suicide Event Tracking and Analysis*: Information on all AF suicides and suicide attempts are entered into a central database, currently the Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER), to identify suicide risk factors and trends.



Serving those who serve our country

The Military Crisis Line for Veteran's Affairs

www.mentalhealth.va.gov

If you're a Service member in crisis or know a Service member who is, confidential support is only a phone call, click, or text away—24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The Military Crisis Line, online chat, and text-messaging service are free to all Service members, including members of the National Guard and Reserve, and Veterans, even if you are not registered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or enrolled in VA health care. Hundreds of men and women in the military call us every day, and start to get back on track.

The Military Crisis Line is staffed by caring, qualified responders from VA—many of whom have served in the military themselves. They understand what Service members have been through and the challenges members of the military and their loved ones face.

Crisis feels different for everybody and can be caused by a wide range of situations before, during, or after military service. Some Service members are coping with stress, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, or challenges faced during civilian life while others may experience difficulties in their relationships or transitioning back to employment or education.

Whatever's got you down—chronic pain, anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, anger, or even disturbing memories of your tour of duty—a Military Crisis Line responder can provide support, day or night.



Get the Help You've Earned

Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year through the Military Crisis Line, (1-800-273-8255 and Press 1), online chat and text (838255). In Europe call 00800 1273 8255 or DSN 118*. You can also access resources and information anytime.

- Learn to recognize the signs of crisis.
- Use the resource locator to find VA and community resources in your area.
- Watch videos about finding support in tough times.
- Help your fellow Service members by spreading the word about the Military Crisis Line.

For more information about VA's mental health resources, visit www.mentalhealth.va.gov.

121st Airman Spotlight

1.) Where do you work and what is your job title?

I work at the 121st Medical Group. I am an Aerospace Medical Technician

2.) Why did you join the Air National Guard?

I like to travel, so I knew it would give me a great opportunity to travel and I wanted to do something for my country. I also like medical care and taking care of people.

3.) What is the most challenging/rewarding aspect of your job?

The most challenging is that as a supervisor, I am in charge of several Airmen, so on UTA weekend we don't seem to have enough time to get all of our training accomplished.

The most rewarding has been working at the base full time with Staff Sgt. Betts and helping her with the medical board process, waivers and line-of-duties. I have learned a lot and have been able to help a lot of Airmen through those processes.

4.) What places have you been TDY as a Guardsman? How was that different than weekend duty?

I have been to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar twice. I did flight medicine there, which is a lot different because we typically do PHAs at the 121st, but there we were actually a treatment facility. We treated all of the air crew and emergencies, took 911 calls and responded to flight line emergencies. In February, our unit went to Korea and set up a military field hospital.

5.) What does your family think about your military service?

They are extremely supportive. My parents and my boyfriend help take care of my children when I have to be away. They're always thanking me and they do everything they can to support me.

6.) Tell me something about yourself that many people might not know.

I've learned to cook better and I'm very proud of it. I like riding Harley Davidsons. My boyfriend and I enjoy doing poker runs to benefit cancer research and stuff like that. I've also been running more and have been doing 5K's. I'm doing the 'Color Me Rad' run on October 5th.



Tech. Sgt. Kristin Bandy, Aerospace Medical Technician at the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, Ohio, takes the blood pressure of Staff Sgt. Megan Betts, a Health Services Technician for the 121st Medical Group, Sept. 22, 2013 during the Unit Training Assembly. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Wendy Kuhn/Released)

If you would like to nominate an Airman for the Airman Spotlight, please email the 121st Public Affairs office at: 121ARW.WingWatch@ang.af.mil

E5 - E6 Vacancy Listings

Open Date	Close Date	Duty AFSC	Unit	Duty Title	Rank	#Positions
20 Sep 13	1 Oct 13	3D1x4	CF	Spectrum Operations	SSgt	
20 Sep 13	1 Oct 13	3D153	220 EIS	RF Trans	SSgt	
20 Sep 13	1 Oct 13	3D156	220 EIS	Airfield Systems	SSgt	
20 Sep 13	1 Oct 13	3D157	220 EIS	Comm, Cable & Antenna	SSgt	
20 Sep 13	1 Oct 13	3E451	121 CES	Water fuels	SSgt	
20 Sep 13	1 Oct 13	3M051	121 FSS	Services	SSgt	Two
26 Oct 12	Until Filled	47G3	MDG	Dentist	2Lt ¹	
22 Mar 13	Until Filled	43Hx	MDG	Public Health Officer	Lt Col	
22 Mar 13	Until Filled	46NxE	MDG	Critical Care Nurse	Maj	
23 Aug 13	8 Oct 13	3D173	220EIS	RF Transmission	TSgt	
23 Aug 13	8 Oct 13	2F071	121 LRS	Fuels	MSgt	
23 Aug 13	8 Oct 13	2F071	121 LRS	Fuels	TSgt	Multiple
23 Aug 13	1 Oct 13	51J4	State Hq	Staff Judge Advocate	Lt Col ²	
23 Aug 13	8 Oct 13	6F071	121 CTF	Financial Mgt	TSgt	
20 Sep 13	5 Nov 13	2A675	121 MXS	A/C Hydraulic Systems	TSgt	
20 Sep 13	5 Nov 13	C21A3	121 AMXS	Aircraft Maintenance Commander	Lt Col ³	
20 Sep 13	Until Filled	41A3	121 MG	Medical Service Health Service Admin	Major ⁴	
20 Sep 13	Until Filled	44M3	121 MG	Internal Medicine Physician	Lt Col ⁵	
20 Sep 13	Until Filled	43E3A	121 MG	Bioenvironmental Engineer	Lt Col ⁵	
20 Sep 13	Until Filled	44E3	121 MG	Physician Emergency	Lt Col ⁵	
20 Sep 13	Until Filled	44F3	121 MG	Family Physician	Lt Col ⁵	

¹Commissioning Opportunity. For more information, please follow-up with the Retention Office.

²AFSC 51J4 - Completed Air War College/SDE.

³Open to Lt Cols and Majors (do not need to be immediately eligible for promotion).

⁴Rank: Capt or Major - Fully Qualified 41A3 - Current Officer who can meet MSC requirements (GRE or GMAT/Education – Degree) (See Recruiting or Medical for more information).

⁵Commissioning Opportunity – Up to Lt Col - See Recruiting or Medical for additional required qualifications.

Military funeral honors provided to eligible Veterans

Have you ever wondered how to request funeral honors for family members? Military Funeral Honors have always been provided whenever possible. However, the law now mandates the rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible Veteran if requested by the family. (<http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil>.)

As provided by law, an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible Veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent Service of the deceased Veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps. Taps will be played by a bugler, if available, or by electronic recording.

There is a website that will help you find the contact numbers for Military funeral honors for each branch. This site is supported by the Department of Defense. You are able to check any state for contact information for funeral honors by selecting the Funeral Directors link. There is a lot of good information within this site, including who is eligible and what supporting documentation is needed for requesting a funeral honor.

If you have any further questions concerning Military Funeral Honors or if you are interested in joining the Rickenbacker Honor Guard detail, contact **Master Sgt. Eli Keyser at 614-492-3651**.

Here's the answer to the photo on page 2



The KC-135 Stratotanker

- The KC-135 replaced the propeller-powered KC-97 tankers, which could no longer keep up with the jet fighters and bombers.
- The first KC-135 rolled out of the plant in 1956, nicknamed "The City of Renton."
- The first KC-135 flight was Aug. 31, 1956.
- During the Vietnam conflict, the KC-135 made 813,000 aerial refuelings of numerous combat aircraft.



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[Twitter.com/121ARW](https://www.twitter.com/121ARW)



Public Web Site: 121arw.ang.af.mil